



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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STATE WELL DRILLERS AND PUMP INSTALLERS  
EXAMINING AND ADVISORY BOARD

### State Well Drillers and Pump Installers Examining and Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for March 17, 2011

**Board Members Present:** Art Becker (Chairman), Joe Yost, Richard Dalton, Gary Poppe, Joe Pepe, Karl Muessig, and Carol Graff

**Board Members Absent:** Anthony Tirro (Vice-Chairman), Fred Sickels

**Others Present:** Christine Piatek (DAG),

**NJDEP Staff Present:**

Water Supply Staff - Pat Bono, Tracy Omrod, Steve Reya, Julia Altieri (morning only), Michael Schumacher (morning only), Steven Pudney, Kati Wessling (afternoon only), J. Fields (afternoon only)  
Other DEP Staff - Charles Maack (Licensing Unit), Jeff Hoffman (Central Enforcement), and Marcidius Jamison (Acting Director of Enforcement)

**Member(s) of the Public:** Ray Smith, licensed well driller (EPI), Len Krinsky (GEM), and Marty Theys (licensed pump installer/plumber)

- 1. Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by A. Becker at 9:39 AM with a quorum present.
- 2. Review of draft Minutes from January 20, 2011 Meeting** – A motion to approve the minutes without change was made by G. Poppe, seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously. A. Becker asked for additional detail on the hearing process that was detailed in the minutes, as he was not able to attend the January meeting.
- 3. Certification of Test Applicants for April 4, 2010 Master, Journeyman B, Monitoring, Soil Borer and Pump Installers Exams–**

**Master** – A motion to approve the exam applicants was made by G. Poppe, seconded by K. Muessig and approved unanimously.

**Journeyman** – A motion to approve the exam applicants was made by J. Yost, seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.

**Journeyman B** - A motion to approve the exam applicants was made by K. Muessig, seconded by C. Graff, and approved unanimously

**Monitoring** - A motion to approve the exam applicants was made by G. Poppe, seconded by D. Dalton and approved unanimously.

**Soil Borer** - A motion to approve the exam applicants was made by C. Graff, seconded by G. Poppe and approved unanimously.

**Pump Installer** - A motion to approve the exam applicants was made by J. Pepe, seconded by J. Yost and approved unanimously.

#### 4. Licensing Topics

**Enforcement Activity** - J. Altieri presented a summary of the Bureau's enforcement activity over the past two months. She also noted that she had recently attended a regional enforcement coordination meeting and will continue to work closely with staff from all three enforcement regions (North, Central and South). Multiple Administrative Order and Notice of Civil Administrative Penalty Assessment (AONOCAPA) letters are currently being issued to drillers with egregious violations, most of which are construction related. Posting violations on the DEP website was also discussed. Once a final enforcement action had been taken by DEP, the violation can be posted online. The Department's Dataminer program can post such information if it is stored in the Department's NJEMS database. Currently the Well Permitting Section does not track violations in NJEMS. This would need to be performed in order to allow the public to view these violations online. J. Hoffman noted that recent violation notices issued through his office (Central Water Compliance and Enforcement) are now being added to the Department's NJEMS database, making them viewable through Dataminer. He and the Board also discussed the fact that his office will now begin copying the Board on their enforcement letters by forwarding these documents through P. Bono in the Bureau of Water Systems and Well Permitting.

**Driller/Plumber jurisdiction** - As discussed at multiple previous Board meetings, the jurisdictional issue between the Well Driller/Pump Installer licenses and the Master Plumber licensees has been a problem for many years. Additionally, it is believed that the vast majority of those installing water treatment systems are unlicensed, meaning that they not licensed as drillers, pump installers or plumbers. A Becker discussed a recent conference that he, G. Poppe and J. Pepe had with Acting Water Systems and Well Permitting Bureau Chief, John Field regarding installation of these water treatment systems. He suggested that the only way to establish a minimum competency level for installers of treatment system equipment would be to have a separate license, which would be administered by DEP. Potential inclusion into the Safe Drinking Water Act Regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:10) were discussed, however, DEP resources necessary for revising this regulation and developing/administering the treatment license are currently extremely limited.

**Revision of Pump Installers Survey** - A. Becker, G. Poppe and J. Pepe worked on survey designed to determine the test preparation of Pump Installer Exam applicants and ascertain if the exam was testing the community on material that is relevant to what they are actually learning in the field. P. Bono made some revisions to the survey and presented her revised survey to the Board members. The Board recommended removing one question that would give the applicant a bonus point for providing their name. This question will be removed and the survey will be included with the April Exam.

#### 5. Geothermal Exchange Module (GEM) Presentation by Len Krinsky-

Len Krinsky, mechanical engineer and designer of the Geothermal Exchange Module (GEM), discussed the design and installation of this proposed new system. This system is comprised of

stainless steel pipe assemblies that measure seven (7) inches in diameter, which are to be installed at depths ranging from 12-21 feet. The borehole in which they will be installed will measure ten (10) inches in diameter and 35 feet deep. The borehole would be tremie grouted prior to inserting the modular stainless steel cylinder assembly, which would displace the grout into the annular space. The cylinder is set in the bottom of the over-drilled hole and plumbed to the surface through HDPE pipe. Mr. Krinsky stated that the DEP-approved grouts would be suitable for his system. He also noted that the circulating fluid used in his geothermal system is water so they are much more environmentally friendly than the typical closed-loop system that utilizes a certain percentage of anti-freeze. The life expectancy is also claimed to be extremely long for his system, as the materials are stainless steel and polyethylene, which are joined together with PVC fittings. The typical borehole spacing would be approximately twenty (20) feet according to L. Krinsky. He will need to submit a formal request to the Bureau containing all specifications regarding the borehole, pipe materials, grouting, etc. and will have to submit a well permit application, which contains a deviation request. Decommissioning of the system must also be addressed in his documentation. The Board will then review the material and with the intention of recommending a pilot installation if appropriate.

**6. Process on Hearings and Suspension of Licenses** – Chris Piatek, DAG, discussed the fact that the statute (N.J.S.A. 58:4A) states that the Board can recommend that the Department suspend or revoke licenses from well drillers/pump installers. She suggested that the new regulations should detail a process that must be followed in order to do this. As part of this, criteria would have to be established so the Board would have justification to support any recommendation to suspend or revoke. She noted that informal hearings conducted at the Board's level could produce a workable model. The Board members, however, need to determine whether they wish to participate in lengthy formal hearings rather than forward them to a State DAG. She noted that it may be feasible to have the Board conduct informal hearings and forward formal appeals to the DEP's legal division. She also suggested that a Board sub committee meet with Department staff, including M. Jamison, so as to not form a quorum and tie up the entire Board. A. Becker indicated that he would like to develop such a mechanism, but the immediacy of the issue is now somewhat diminished as he has been pleased with the Department's recent response to enforcing their well drilling regulations. The initial plan for the Board hearings was generated as a result of the perceived failure to enforce the regulations.

**7. DEP Program Updates –**

**Historic Well documents** - P. Bono said that the Bureau has been working to data manage historic well information and also to improve well document search tools. At this time, all overtime has been ceased for this project and we have lost another staff member recently. M Schumacher has been working with staff from DEP's Site Remediation Program to come up with a better search tool to benefit well data users outside the Department. They hope to have a version of the well search that will allow users (well drillers/pump installers, property owners, etc.) to obtain PDF files of well permits and well records. Currently, users can view summarized information but not the details of the record or the permits. The new tool cannot be posted on the website until approved by the Commissioner's office due to security concerns associated with posting this information.

**Regulation Revisions-** P. Bono, A. Becker and Katie Wessling, who will be assisting P. Bono with the revisions to the regulations, met recently to discuss the regulation revision process. The Bureau is holding two stakeholder meetings for the public two for the county and state agencies. The general public meeting will be on April 6<sup>th</sup> at the DEP building at 401 E. State St., Trenton. April 11<sup>th</sup> is the licensing and technology meeting which will be held at the Eco Complex in Bordentown. Both meetings are from 1-4 PM. All invitations will be mailed out shortly. C Graff will gather a list of emails from NJGWA members and forward the information to P. Bono and K. Wessling.

**Proposed NGWA Licensing and Continuing Education Program** –S. Reya, P. Bono, M. Schumacher and other Department staff met with National Groundwater Association (NGWA) director, Kevin McCray, on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the proposed new licensing and continuing education program that would be administered by NGWA. The Bureau needs to work with NGWA to finalize their proposal. Staff has worked with DEP's Data Management staff to discuss how the interaction between DEP, NGWA and Treasury will work. P. Bono explained that the NGWA Master test is vastly different from the NJ DEP master exam in terms of scope. The Soil Borer exam also does not have an equivalent level NGWA test which is limited to soil borings exclusively. The closest would be the NGWA augering and monitoring category which is most similar to New Jersey's Monitoring Well Driller License. A. Becker suggested NJ keep the soil borer license class and not combine the two different licenses. If NGWA is not willing to develop a new test for this class, then the Board may consider keeping the NJ test. G. Poppe also agreed with keeping the soil borer license.

The Board members and Well Permitting Program staff agreed that would be preferable to have the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) maintain elevator "shaft" drilling construction requirements. This is consistent with discussions held at previous Board meetings. DEP must make sure the wording is specific pertaining to the Geothermal Drilling License as an open loop geothermal well and that it is understood that this is considered to be a water well. A. Becker suggested that the Department explicitly state that the new license is referred to as a "Closed Loop Geothermal" license. For each license category (both current and those proposed for adoption) the Board recommended the individual exams required for each license. These recommendations are attached as "Table 1."

P. Bono indicated that she would like to have new licensing system up by December of 2011. She also stated that the initial continuing education program would likely mimic the current NGWA requirement of 7 CEU credits per year (21 credits per 3-year license cycle).

A motion to require the exams specified in "Table 1" was made by J. Yost, seconded by R. Dalton and approved unanimously. A. Becker abstained from the motion, as he is the current president of NGWA.

**9. Adjournment** - A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by G. Poppe, seconded by K. Muessig and unanimously approved at 3:40 pm.